

The Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) believes that the well-being of children and youth are foundational to the health and prosperity of the entire province. With the 2024 provincial election quickly approaching, the CPS would like to know how your party plans to address the priority issues below. We would appreciate your responses be sent to samanthag@cps.ca by Monday, November 18th for sharing with our membership of paediatric experts across the province.

### **Elevating the voices of children and youth**

What will your party do to listen to and elevate the voices and interests of children and youth?

*A Nova Scotia Liberal government will work with advocacy groups and families to ensure that there are opportunities for children and youth to have their voices heard in their communities. Their needs and desires must be taken into consideration when making decisions that will shape their futures.*

### **Eliminating childhood poverty**

What will your party do to reduce rates of childhood poverty and food insecurity?

*We recognize that both child poverty and food insecurity are caused by a myriad of intersecting issues, which is why we need a full-scope approach to addressing them. A Nova Scotia Liberal government will implement multiple anti-poverty policies that will directly affect families in our province and keep children fed, housed, and supported. The current social safety net is trapping Nova Scotians in intergenerational poverty. We will spearhead an all-party committee to develop a made-in-Nova Scotia universal basic income program that will support the needs of our province. We will implement bold housing and healthcare plans, and invest in long-term non-profit program funding, which will support folks in accessing services that contribute to poverty relief. We will work with Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities to create program models that take their marginalization into account, to more effectively support their freedom from oppressive cycles of poverty.*

### **Ending systemic racism and discrimination**

What will your party do to ensure all children and youth are protected from systemic racism and discrimination?

*Everyone has a place in Nova Scotia, and a Nova Scotia Liberal government will continue to advocate for inclusive and safe communities. We will ensure that the lived experiences of marginalized communities inform policy decisions moving forward so that our systems continue to become more protective. And we will ensure that programming and public services meet the diverse needs of communities so that children across Nova Scotia grow up with a government that truly works for them.*

### **Protecting the rights of children and youth**

How will your party uphold and protect the unique and inalienable rights of children and youth and realize the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?

*We support all principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. If elected, we will ensure that childrens' voices are heard and taken seriously; that they have opportunities to grow and develop in supportive environments; and that we are making decisions with their best interests in mind. We recognize the importance of children being given the rights to participate in decision-making that affects their lives, and we will work to ensure that a Nova Scotia Liberal government offers opportunities for participation all along the way.*

**Strengthening data and accountability**

How will your party improve data collection and availability for increased transparency and accountability about the health and well-being of children and youth?

*A Nova Scotia Liberal government will ensure that Nova Scotia's healthcare system data is reliable, accountable, and keeps Nova Scotian patients and healthcare workers informed about our healthcare system. We will also ensure that children and youth are included on the by-name list to give an accurate representation of those experiencing homelessness in our province in order to more effectively provide support.*